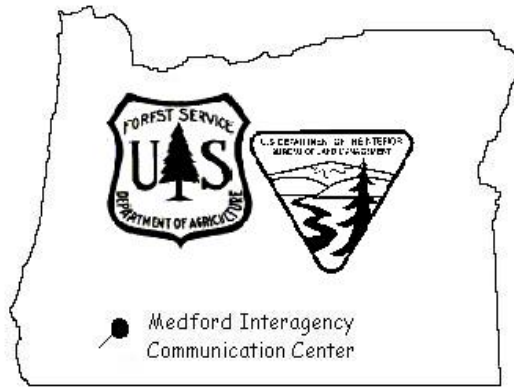


Medford Interagency Communication Center



2003 Year End Report



Medford Interagency Communication Center

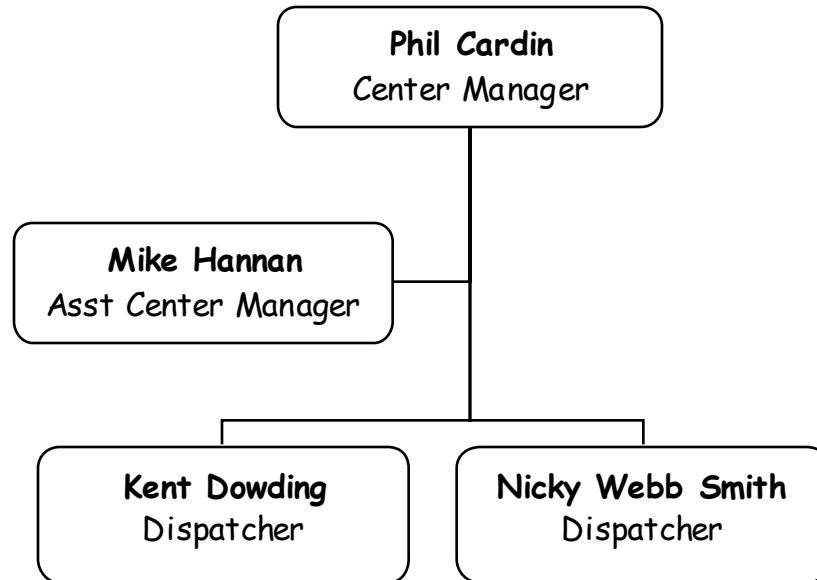
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The Medford Interagency Communication Center, 2003 Year End Report, was written by Nicky Webb Smith, and was reviewed by Phil Cardin and Mike Hannan. Some statistical numbers were provided by Mike Hannan, Mary Ann Ceglia, and Jean Gallagher.

Medford Interagency Communication Center

Organization



Oversight of the Medford Interagency Communication Center (MICC) is provided by Tom Murphy, Medford District BLM Fire Management Officer, and Charlie Phenix, Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer. MICC said a sad goodbye to dispatcher, Carla Thompson, who accepted a transfer to the Burns Interagency Communication Center in the spring. With Carla's departure, that allowed for the return of Nicky Webb Smith to the area. MICC also welcomed Kent Dowding, from the Ashland Ranger District, as part of the organization at the new dispatch office. Both Kent and Nicky bring with them a strong fire background and local knowledge of the Rogue River NF and Medford District BLM.

MICC's New Dispatch Office

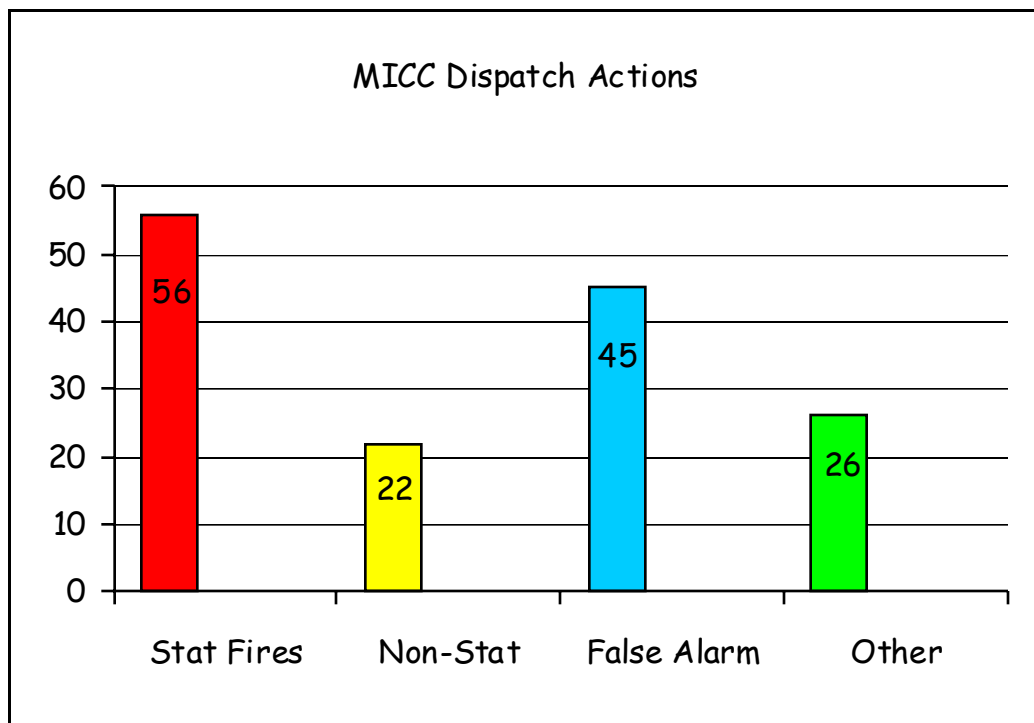
Fairly close to being on schedule, the move into the new office began in February, and was completed by mid March. There was an Open House on April 8 to show off the new digs. Probably the most impressive thing to the visitors and employees is the systems furniture that is height adjustable so that you may sit or stand up to work at the radio and computer consoles.

Fire Season

The Oregon Department of Forestry declared fire season June 6, which lasted for 151 days, until November 3. The Rogue River National Forest experienced 60 fires this year, with only 7 fires growing to 1 acre or more; the Cascade Fire grew to be the largest at 31 acres. *(See pages 5-6 for more information about FS fires)*. The Medford District BLM lands experienced 54 fire occurrences that burnt approximately 199 acres, with only 12 fires growing to 1 acre or more; the Powell Creek Fire grew to be the largest at 144 acres. *(See pages 7-9 for more information about BLM fires)*.

Dispatch Actions

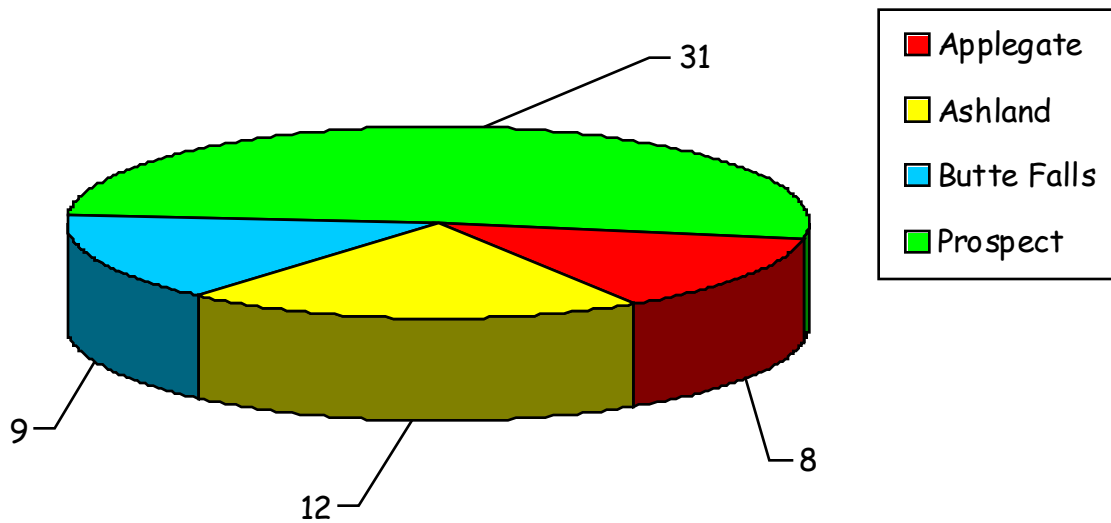
MICC processed 149 total Dispatch Action Records throughout the year. They included statistical fires for the forest, fires that we assisted other cooperators with, some notifications of fires that were on BLM lands, fires that were determined to be on our neighbor land, false alarms, and other types of emergencies. These numbers do not reflect all of the Dispatch Actions for the entire Forest because of the implementation of Zone Dispatch during high levels of fire activity. They numbers only account for those actions that came through the MICC office.



Rogue River National Forest

Fire Statistics by Unit

Total Number of Fires



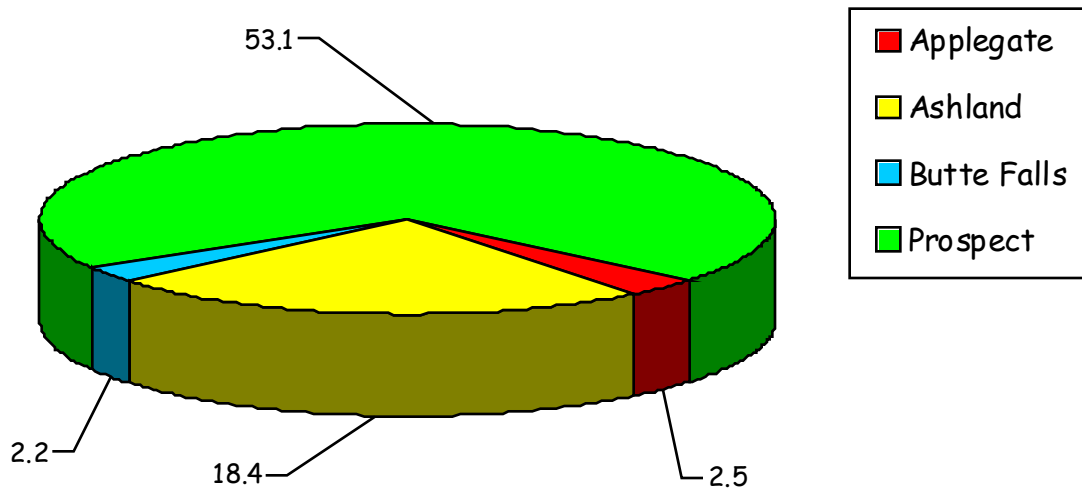
Total Number of Fires by Cause

Cause	Applegate	Ashland	Butte Falls	Prospect	TOTAL
Lightning	8	11	7	23	49
Smoking				1	1
Campfire		1	1	4	6
Arson			1		1
Children				1	1
Misc.				2	2
TOTAL	8	12	9	31	60

Rogue River National Forest

Fire Statistics by Unit

Total Acres



Total Acres by Cause

Cause	Applegate	Ashland	Butte Falls	Prospect	TOTAL
Lightning	2.5	18.3	1.6	51.5	73.9
Smoking				.1	.1
Campfire		.1	.5	.7	1.3
Arson			.1		.1
Children				.3	.3
Misc.				.5	.5
TOTAL	2.5	18.4	2.2	53.1	76.2

Medford District Bureau of Land Management

Fire and Fuels Programs

"West Side Contract"

With the "West Side Contract" in place, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection for those Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands located west of highway 97, in the state of Oregon. (This is a general description of the lands, not to be interpreted literally). Because the need to administer the contract for the Medford District BLM falls upon their employees, we have included these fire statistics in this report. Some administrative duties for the contract may include project inspection, environmental specialist, and resource advisor. MICC makes a solid attempt to track the personnel that have been used to administer the contract using resource orders.

Fuels Program

The Medford District BLM has a nationally recognized fuels program that accomplished nearly 6000 acres of prescribed burning this past year. These acres were accomplished by coordinating efforts between resource area employees, contract resources, and dispatch (*see Prescribed Fire Season on page 12*).

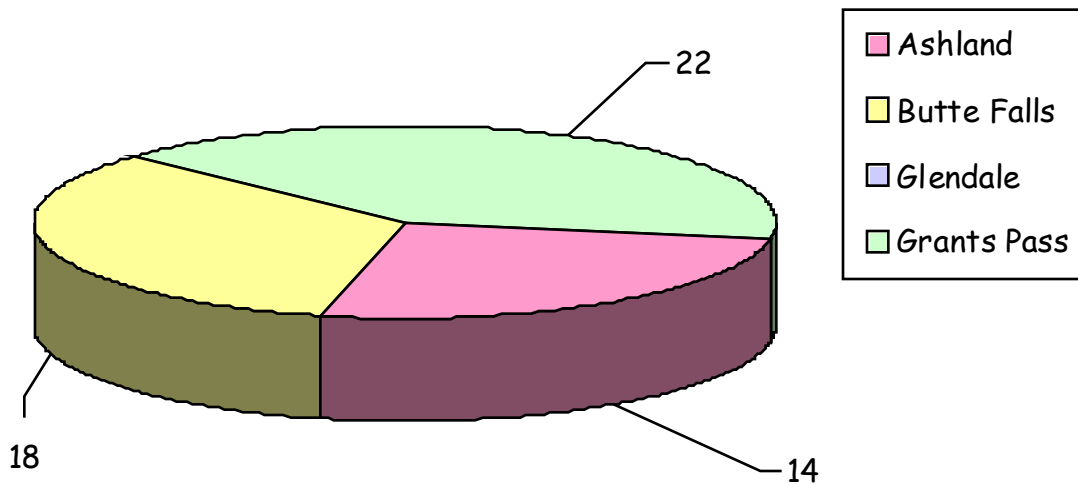
Fire Support

This year, MICC assigned 129 BLM employees on resource orders, who participated in one role or another, in an effort to support fire suppression activities. Participants came from all four resource areas, the District Managers Staff, Division of Field Services, and the Division of Operations. Some folks were on multiple fire assignments. There were some participants that went out of the area, while others stayed close to home to provide assistance to local cooperators and meet internal needs.

Medford District Bureau of Land Management

Fire Statistics by Unit

Total Number of Fires



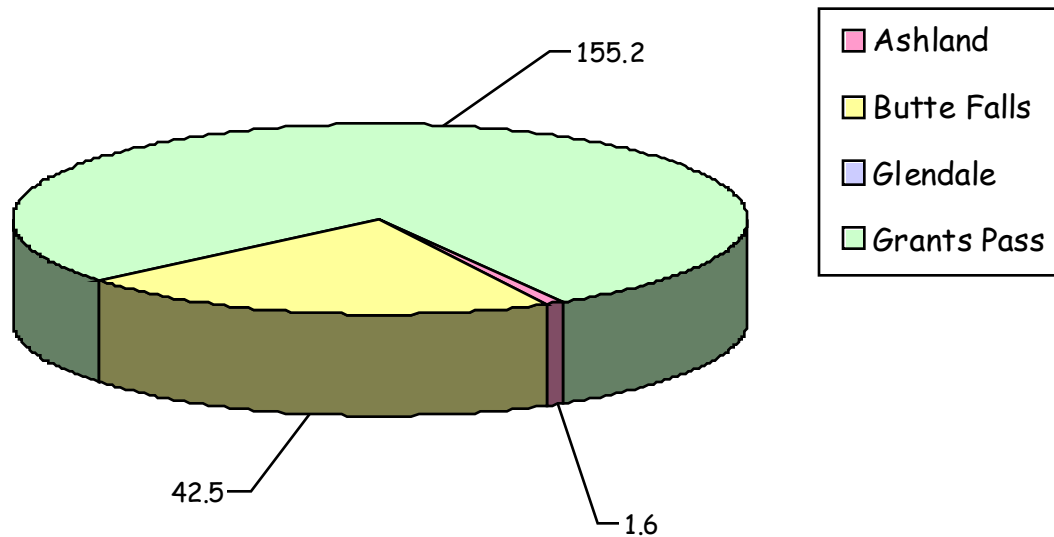
Total Number of Fires by Cause

Cause	Ashland	Butte Falls	Glendale	Grants Pass	TOTAL
Lightning	12	13		12	37
Smoking		1			1
Campfire				2	2
Arson		3		1	4
Equipment	1	1		1	3
Misc.	1			6	7
TOTAL	14	18		22	54

Medford District Bureau of Land Management

Fire Statistics by Unit

Total Acres



Total Acres by Cause

Cause	Ashland	Butte Falls	Glendale	Grants Pass	TOTAL
Lightning	1.4	30.8		3.2	35.4
Smoking		0.1			0.1
Campfire				0.6	0.6
Arson		11.5		2.0	13.5
Equipment	0.1	0.1		144.0	144.2
Misc.	0.1			5.4	5.5
TOTAL	1.6	42.5		155.2	199.3

Medford Interagency Communication Center

Resources

Mobilization

The mobilization of resources began early in the year with the tragic event of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in mid February. MICC processed orders for Crews and Overhead personnel to respond to Texas throughout the months of February, March, and April, to assist in the search and recovery operations. After the bulk of the fire season had passed, "Southern California Firestorm 2003" occurred during the last week of October and first week of November. Not only were there fires in the far reaches of Southern California, but Northern California was still experiencing significant fire activity as well. MICC continued to supply support in the way of Overhead personnel, Crews, and Engines to both Southern and Northern California.

Resources

MICC is the host and dispatch center for a number of resources from the Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Weather Service (NWS), and a number contract companies that provide various resources, such as aircraft, crews, engines, and water tenders. The list of resources by provider looked something like this:

4	Agency Engines (FS)
6	Agency Engines (BLM)
4	Prevention Modules (FS)
2	Agency 5 person hand crews (FS)
66	Contract Type 2 Crews
27	Contract Engines
19	Contract Water Tenders
194	Agency Personnel (FS)
210	Agency Personnel (BLM)
21	A.D. Personnel (FS hired)
3	Contract Helicopters
7	Contract Fixed-Wing Aircraft (4 tactical and 3 charter type)
1	Contract Air Tanker with Aerial Supervision Module (ODF)

Number of Requests Filled / Resources Dispatched

594	Overhead
10	Type 1 Agency Crews
9	Type 2 Agency Crews
181	Type 2 Contract Crews
41	Type 3, 4, 5, or 6 Agency Engines
91	Type 3, 4, 5, or 6 Contract Engines
2	Agency Water Tenders
10	Type 2 or 3 Contract Water Tenders
75	Tactical Aircraft Requests
25	Air Tanker Requests (15 ODF Air Tanker)
24	Helicopter Requests
10	Lead Plane Requests
9	Recon/Detection Requests
7	Air Attack Requests

Other Logistical Requests Processed

160	Airline Reservations for Overhead and Crew Personnel
27	Chartered Flights for mobilization/demobilization of personnel

Agency Firefighter Days on Assignment

8,061	Total Firefighter Days on District and Forest
3,921	Rogue River NF Firefighter Days
2,887	Cascade Zone Firefighter Days (Includes IHC)
802	Siskiyou Zone Firefighter Days
201	Supervisor's Office Firefighter Days
81	J. Herbert Stone Nursery Firefighter Days
3,241	Medford District BLM Firefighter Days
1,052	Ashland Resource Area Firefighter Days
822	Grants Pass Resource Area Firefighter Days
651	Glendale Resource Area Firefighter Days
469	Butte Falls Resource Area Firefighter Days
124	Operations Firefighter Days
100	District Manager Staff Firefighter Days
23	Division of Field Services Firefighter Days
899	Other Firefighter Days (AD's and National Weather Service)

Resource Tracking of BLM Employees

MICC provides for daily resource tracking of BLM personnel. This practice requires the dispatchers to account for every field-going BLM employee who either checks out to the field with MICC using radio, phone, or computer program (formerly Scotland Yard, now In-Out Board which is an internet based system). MICC assures that the personnel are accounted for prior to close of business each day. Safeguards are in place for those personnel returning after hours, they are required to check in with the Jackson County 911 center. Call down and search procedures are in place for when an employee is more than 15 minutes overdue. During the winter months, there may only be five personnel checked out to the field; while in the normal field season (May thru October), there may be as many as one hundred personnel checked out to the field.

<http://www.inoutboard.com>

Prescribed Fire Season

During Prescribed Fire season, the Forest Service Zone Fire and Fuels groups and BLM Resource Area Fuels groups, submit Prescribed Fire SIT Report Notification forms the day before a planned burn. This information is then compiled into a document that is posted on MICC's web page, (*see page 13*). This document is also faxed out to a large group of individuals and agencies as part of a notification process that is in place. The Medford District BLM burnt approximately 124 units for 5836 acres, and the Rogue River National Forest burnt approximately 67 units for 2483 acres.

Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS)

Over the winter of 2002 and 2003, Phil, Mike and Nicky spent much time training up personnel from across the region in the use of ROSS Dispatch. Training was delivered in formal classroom sessions and on the job experience. On April 23, MICC had the distinction of being the first office in the Nation to use ROSS to process an order.

<http://ross.nwcg.gov>

MICC's Web Page

Yes, it is there, up, and running; and still a work in progress. Currently posted on the web page are the Current Fire Danger Ratings, Fire Indices, Fire Weather Forecast, Fire Codes, Lightning Maps, and Planned Prescribed Burns. Some things may be in-active, depending on the time of year. Thank you to Roy Quackenbush, web master, for creating our web site.

<http://www.or.blm.gov/ormic/>

Appreciation

MICC would like to thank all of the people who came into dispatch and helped out this past year. You were a big help in tracking resources, dispatching, answering phones, etc. Big thanks goes out to Roy Quackenbush, Mark Irwin, Dusty Pence, Mike Alexander, Toni Parks, Mary Ann Ceglia, Darlene Rambo, and a special thanks to Vickie Whiteaker who worked with us most all summer long.

MICC Accomplishments

The dispatch staff worked to get a lot of resources out the door when possible. Part of that challenge was to get trainees out the door, to support the development of the resources that are dispatched by this office. With the hard work from the employees of the Rogue River NF and Medford District BLM, accurate status in ROSS, and some work by the dispatchers, there were a total of 33 BLM employees and 7 FS employees that were converted from trainee to qualified.

Phil provided great leadership and mentoring to the folks that worked at MICC, again this year. In addition to his regular job, he had another very busy year as a ROSS partner, the Regional ROSS coordinator, and local ROSS administrator. He continued to supply valuable comment to the ROSS development team for future modifications to the program, was an instructor for ROSS Dispatch classes, the course coordinator and lead instructor to a local ROSS class, and coordinated the regional effort to clean up the ROSS database. The clean up was a huge task during the holiday season, which required Phil to work with all fire dispatch offices in the region, get them to look at their data, and make necessary changes to ensure historical accuracy.

Mike started the year off taking on the task of getting the Medford BLM District set up with the new health screening system that came into effect for all red carded individuals. This involved populating, yet, another database with all red carded employees, requesting physician appointments, educating employees on how this new process worked, and coordinating efforts with the national office to resolve any problems and discrepancies. In addition, Mike manages the Shared Access Computer Systems (SACS, or simply the red card system for the Department of the Interior). This system contains the records for red carded employees; their fire experience, training experience, and qualifications. Also, Mike provides oversight of the Wildland Fire Management Information, Fire Reporting database, to ensure timely and accurate entry of fire reports by the cooperating state offices that provide fire suppression to the Medford District BLM lands.

Kent was a truly welcome addition to the MICC staff. He came into dispatch with a fire background, local knowledge of the forest, and the desire to learn. With these qualities, he was an immediate asset to the dispatch organization and quickly became highly skilled in his new dispatch role. He went above and beyond the call of duty to get resources out the door and on the fireline.

Phil, Mike, and Kent's dedication to the job, the employees that they work with, and those they provide service to, is admirable, truly respectable and much appreciated.

Nicky's most proud moment for the year was not work related, but that of a personal nature. She became a mom to a little, baby boy on April 14, when she welcomed Clayton Rowdy Smith into this world. Some noteworthy accomplishments for her would include teaching ROSS Dispatch classes in locations around Oregon, compiling the ORCA Type II Incident Management Team applications for the selection process, and while telecommuting for the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center she entered a lot of the administrative data to their ROSS database.